

1129

TALES OF THE UNUSUAL

STORY/ART BY SUNGDAE OH

MY WIFE'S MEMORIES
EPISODE THREE



DAD, WHY'RE
YOU STAYING
IN THIS ROOM?

I JUST FIND I SLEEP
BETTER IN HERE.



EVEN WITH IT
ALL CLEANED UP AND
THE WALLPAPER
REDONE...

IT CAN'T BE GOOD FOR
YOUR HEALTH, SINCE IT'S
THE ROOM WHERE THE FIRE
STARTED...



IT'S FINE,
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.

THIS IS THE ROOM WHERE THE FIRE STARTED.
THIS IS WHERE I CAN OBSERVE MY WIFE,



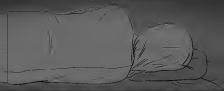
WHEN I FIRST FOUND OUT ABOUT MY WIFE'S
DEMENTIA, I FELT TERRIBLE AND CONFUSED.
I CRIED A LOT, TOO.



BUT OVER TIME, I STARTED RESENTING MY WIFE
FOR LOSING HER MIND.



BUT AT TIMES, WHEN THINGS GOT REALLY TOUGH,
I'D BLAME THE HEAVENS. SINCE I KNEW THAT
THIS MISFORTUNE COULDN'T BE MY WIFE'S
OWN FAULT.



AND SO MY WIFE LEFT, AND NOW
ALL THAT'S LEFT OF HER HERE ARE
THESE MEMORIES.



I'M LOOKING RIGHT AT A DEMENTIA SPIRIT OF
MY WIFE FROM 3 YEARS AGO.



STILL, I WAS GRATEFUL.



WHEREVER SHE LOOKED,
WHATEVER SHE TOUCHED,
WHEREVER SHE WENT,



I COULD FINALLY SEE ALL OF IT,




EVEN IF IT WAS REALLY LATE.

A FEW MONTHS LATER,



ONE DAY, MY DAUGHTER BROUGHT
HER BOYFRIEND TO THE HOUSE.

A man with short black hair and a woman with shoulder-length black hair are shown from the chest up, looking down with somber expressions. The man is wearing a dark suit and tie, and the woman is wearing a pink top. They are positioned close together, with the woman slightly in front of the man.

YOUR MOM REALLY WANTED
TO SEE YOU WEARING A WEDDING
DRESS SOMEDAY.

A close-up of a man with short black hair, looking down and to the right with a sad and thoughtful expression. He is wearing a dark grey shirt.

DAYEONG...

I'M SO PROUD OF
YOU FOR TAKING SUCH
GOOD CARE OF
YOUR MOM FOR
A LONG TIME.

I'M SURE THERE WERE
LOTS OF THINGS YOU
WANTED TO DO INSTEAD...

YOU QUIT YOUR JOB,
AND COULDN'T MEET
YOUR FRIENDS...



I ALWAYS FELT REALLY
SORRY ABOUT THAT.

I HOPE THAT
YOU'LL LIVE A
HAPPY LIFE FROM
NOW ON.





A man and a woman are sitting on the floor in a room. The woman is on the left, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and white pants. The man is on the right, wearing a dark t-shirt and dark pants. They are both looking towards the right. A speech bubble from the man says, "HONEY, DAYEONG'S GETTING MARRIED." A small object, possibly a phone, is on the floor near the man's feet.

HONEY, DAYEONG'S
GETTING MARRIED.

SHE'S BEEN WITH THE
GUY FOR 5 YEARS-

I MET HIM TODAY,
AND HE SEEMS
LIKE A REALLY KIND
AND TRUSTWORTHY
YOUNG MAN.



A close-up of a man's face. He has dark hair and is looking slightly to the right with a serious expression. He is wearing a dark shirt.

I WANT TO SEND DAYLONG
OFF WITH OUR BLESSING.

YOU FEEL THE
SAME WAY, RIGHT?



AFTER A CERTAIN POINT, MY WIFE STARTED
SPENDING MORE AND MORE TIME
JUST STARING INTO SPACE.



AND THEN, BEFORE I KNEW IT, MY DAUGHTER'S WEDDING WAS JUST ONE DAY AWAY.

I WANTED TO WEAR THIS TOMORROW, BUT IT'S WRINKLED.



DAYLONG,
WHERE'S THE
IRON?

AH...
THE IRON?



I WANTED TO
TRY IT ON TO
SEE IF IT LOOKED
OKAY.

I'LL DO THIS
FOR YOU DAD.





OH NO...!

I ACCIDENTALLY STIRRED UP MY DAUGHTER'S
SENSE OF GUILT.



MY WIFE DIED BECAUSE OF A FIRE STARTED
BY THE IRON. IT HAPPENED WHEN MY DAUGHTER
NEEDED TO GO OUT SOMEWHERE FOR A MINUTE.



IF THINGS KEEP GOING LIKE THIS, I MAY EVEN
BE ABLE TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY.

I DON'T LOOK
TOO BAD AFTER
ALL.

I SHOULD SHOW
MY WIFE.





A black and white illustration of a man in a suit standing in a doorway. He has a surprised expression. A speech bubble above him contains the text "HUH..?". To his right is a four-drawer dresser. On the floor in the foreground, there is a small, rectangular object, possibly a book or a tablet. The room has a simple, minimalist design with a door on the left and a dresser on the right.

HUH..?



MY WIFE HAD
DISAPPEARED.





I SEARCHED THE WHOLE HOUSE,
BUT I COULDN'T FIND HER,
SHE MAY HAVE LEFT WHILE I WAS
TALKING TO MY DAUGHTER,



THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING RIGHT NOW,
I WONDERED IF SHE HAD VANISHED FOREVER..



MAYBE I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE HER
AGAIN...



I CHECKED EVERYWHERE MY WIFE USED TO GO,
BUT SHE WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND..



MAYBE SHE'S
BACK AT THE
HOUSE..

AND THEN SUDDENLY, I REMEMBERED.



IT CAN'T BE...



I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHICH DAY IT WAS
3 YEARS AGO,,

A black and white photograph of a man in profile, looking down. He has dark hair and is wearing a dark jacket. A speech bubble is positioned above his head.

HUFF..!

HUFF..!

BUT I REMEMBERED THE DAY I FOUND OUT
ABOUT HER DEMENTIA..!







HOW'D YOU
GET HERE...



HOW COULD
SHE GET LOST...

IT'S JUST AROUND
THE CORNER...

HONEY..

THAT DAY, MY WIFE HAD GONE OUT TO
GET GROCERIES, BUT SHE GOT LOST AND
ENDED UP AT THIS PARK..

A POLICE OFFICER PASSING BY HELPED
HER AND SHE ENDED UP COMING HOME
LATE AT NIGHT.

I WAS CERTAIN THAT IF I JUST WAITED
SHE'D END UP BACK AT THE HOUSE.

I'VE GOTTA GO
BACK NOW.

TOMORROW'S
DAYLONG'S
WEDDING.

CAN YOU FIND
YOUR WAY
HOME LATER, ?





I WAS SURE THAT SHE'D COME BACK,
SINCE SHE CAME BACK THE LAST TIME.



BUT.....



BUT WHY.....



A black and white illustration of a man and a woman sitting on a park bench in the rain. The man is holding a large black umbrella over both of them. They are positioned in the center-left of the frame. To their right is a tall, double-headed street lamp. The background features several trees and a path that leads into the distance. The overall mood is somber and romantic.

HONEY..

I THINK
I'M LOSING
MY MIND..

To be continued..